

The Gainesville Twice-A-Week Star,

D. E. GODWIN,
Editor and Proprietor.

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HOW JURORS GET OFF.

It can not be denied that many of the best men in the county are very much opposed to sitting on the jury when a person is to be tried on a charge of murder, and we do not blame them for disliking to be placed in a position where they may have to find a prisoner guilty of a crime that calls for the death penalty, but we do say that good men are needed to try such cases, and unpleasant though the duty be, they should under any and all circumstances do their duty.

Some good men offer one excuse to try to escape jury duty, and others offer yet other excuses. Some claim the over age exemption which the law allows, and some who escape because they are over the age of sixty-five would make excellent jurors.

Some get off because they say they have conscientious scruples against capital punishment, and we believe if some who thus escape jury duty would examine themselves closely they would discover that they are not really opposed to capital punishment in cases where the law prescribes it, if other folks sign the verdict. They are opposed to signing the verdict themselves, but many of them are really—perhaps unconsciously—in favor of capital punishment.

Some good men are not accepted on the jury when a murder trial is pending, and the accused is a negro, because they say they are not sure they could give a negro as fair and impartial a trial as they could a white man under the same circumstances. We believe some who say this are really mistaken in the matter, for we cannot understand how any honest man could fail to give a negro a fair and impartial trial. We do understand how a man might try to save a white friend by means perhaps not strictly proper, when he would not do the same for a negro, but such an act would be giving the white man an unfair trial. We do know that we could give the bitterest enemy we have, or the blackest negro on earth, a fair and impartial trial. We understand a fair and impartial juror to be one not only willing but determined to acquit or convict according to the evidence and the law, i. e., if the prisoner deserves acquittal acquit him; if he deserves a lighter degree than murder give it to him, and if he deserves hanging—according to the evidence and the law—give him that. Are we right? If not who will correct us?

INDEX AND HORNET.

A long "dry" spell is threatened in Alachua county, but blind tiger keepers promise to raise the drouth.—Lake City Index.

All liquor houses over this way are not considered "blind tigers," as they have licenses to "do business" until October. There may be a "drouth" approaching, but has not struck us yet. Recent experience has taught us that there is a vast difference between voting out the "open" saloon and voting out liquor.—High Springs Hornet.

Rev. C. P. Setzer, editor of the High Springs Hornet, is, we think, unlike the other licensed preachers of the great and honored Methodist denomination in Alachua county. All the other Methodist ministers of our acquaintance in the county are outspoken in their opposition to the liquor business, and feel that all places where liquor is sold after a large majority of the voters record their votes against it, are "blind tigers." By an overwhelming majority the people of Alachua county have outlawed the liquor business, and every person who has sold any whiskey, wine or beer in the county since Saturday, June 6, at 3:30 p. m., is a criminal, and should be so considered by all good citizens.

Some city that is noted for its healthfulness and is without saloons should be selected as the place for the State encampment, and Gainesville is such a city. Let the encampment be at Gainesville.

ALCOHOL IN MEDICINE.

Dr. Bumgardner (Transactions Colorado State Medical Society, 1902) says that the following "patent" medicines contain the percentage given of alcohol: Green's Nervura, 17.2; Hood's Sarsaparilla, 18.8; Schenck's Seaweed Tonic, 19.5; Brown's Iron Bitters, 19.7; Kaufman's Sulphur Bitters, 20.5; Paine's Celery Compound, 21.0; Burdock's Blood Bitters, 25.2; Ayer's Sarsaparilla, 29.2; Warner's Safe Tonic bitters, 35.7; Parker's Tonic, 41.6; Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, 44.3.

Think of a crusade against beer, which contains only from 2 to 5 per cent of alcohol, while allowing the free sale of "bitters" containing ten times as much. The "bitters" are stronger than whiskey, far stronger than sherry, port, etc., and claret and champagne are far behind.—American Medicine.

These facts speak for themselves, and we only deem it necessary, to be fair, to call attention to the much higher cost of these preparations than of the alcoholic beverages with which they are compared. True, while beer contains from 2 to 5 per cent of alcohol, it is correspondingly cheaper than these preparations, and much better known. There is always a reason for things as they are, and we do not have far to go to find the right one for the crusade against the sale of alcoholic beverages known as such, while little, if anything, is done for the suppression of the sale of their masked competitors. In our opinion, the best kind of a crusade against these objectionable proprietary articles is the publication of the above list, far and wide.—Ed.

The above clipping from a medical journal was sent to the editor of THE STAR by a friend who is evidently opposed to the selling of so much alcohol in the name of medicine.

At first glance it may seem to some that more harm comes from the selling of the "patent" medicines named above than from the selling of beer, because the medicines contain a larger percent of alcohol than does beer but this is not the case, as must be admitted by all who take into consideration the fact that a person taking these patent medicines take but a very small amount as compared with the amount of beer taken by the beer drinker, and then, from the medicines some good is supposed to be derived, while from beer none is expected.

Of the bitters containing 17.2 to 44.3 per cent of alcohol no one is likely to consume more than a fiftieth part of the amount that the same person would consume of the beer which contains 2 to 5 per cent of alcohol, and thus it will be seen that the consumer of alcoholic medicines takes into his stomach, after all, a much smaller amount of alcohol than does the average beer drinker.

THE STAR does not wish to be understood as defending such alcoholic medicines as are mentioned in the foregoing list; far be it from us to defend, or attempt to defend any such percentage of alcohol in medicines, and we think all such should be let severely alone, except when to be used really, and only as medicine, but we do believe that the average beer drinker takes into his stomach more alcohol than does even the most extravagant user of even the 44.3 percent alcohol bitters.

The safest plan, in fact the only plan that is safe at all, is to let beer alone all the time, and patent medicines until you really need them. Read the above list of patent medicines again, and remember, and forget not, that they are said to be for medicine, and well people have no use for medicine.

OVERDOING A GOOD THING.

There is such a thing as overdoing a good thing. If a spoonful of sugar will sweeten a cup of tea just right, who can doubt that twice or three times the amount would be entirely too much sugar in the tea? The expression "Our Bob jes' laffs," as first used by some friendly editor with reference to Mr. Davis' thoughts concerning the announcements of others for the office of governor, has been quoted entirely too much in some papers whose editors are staunch supporters of the Congressman. We believe Mr. Davis' friends can injure his cause—which is their cause—by continuing to quote the expression, and THE STAR hopes to see it dropped. Mr. Davis is not responsible for the creation, the continued life, or the extensive use of the expression. He respects those who are likely to be his opponents, and does not underestimate their strength. Let no friend of Robert W. Davis think it pleases him to see the overworked expression in print.

SHOULD SUBMIT TAMELY.

The Alachua county temperance people evidently mean business in enforcing the local option law against the sale of liquor in that county, as the Board of County Commissioners have been persuaded to offer rewards of \$50 for violators, and this has been supplemented by the citizens of Micanopy offering \$25. Well, it is a farce to have laws and not enforce them, and this has been the case in some counties where the sale of liquor was prohibited by wish of a majority of the voters.

Some of the liquor dealers in Alachua since the election on the question of selling and not selling, have made light of the opposition to the sale, but from the rewards offered it would seem as if it is not to be sold except at a very great risk, and that the temperance people are thoroughly in earnest.

The best thing the liquor men can do is to submit, and obey the law, as it will save them much trouble and expense. To agitate the question by threatening a disregard will do no one any good, but will arouse a public sentiment that may prevade other counties to such an extent as to force them to be voted dry. Every county thus declaring is a loss to the liquor men, and any defiance on their part will only increase their troubles.—Jacksonville Metropolis.

Yes, the temperance people are just as determined to try to prevent liquor selling in the county as they are to try to prevent murder, nineteen-twentieths of which is caused by the saloon men's business.

And when we say the "temperance people" we do not mean only those who do not drink liquor, for in this determination the non-drinkers are supplemented by a large number of citizens who do drink, but voted against selling because they recognize in the liquor traffic a merciless enemy to every truly legitimate enterprise in the land. And to the drinking and non-drinking voters (nearly two-thirds of those who voted on the question) who voted against selling, and are determined to see that the law is enforced, may be added every law-abiding man who—for whatever reason—voted in favor of selling.

Every law-abiding citizen, whether he voted for or against selling, or whether he voted at all, is for enforcing the law, and will do his part in that direction. The very fact the saloon men are kicking against the will of an overwhelming majority's wishes is evidence that they are not law-abiding. But this class is woefully in the minority, and the majority is determined to rule.

STUDY OF LYNCHING.

During the past twenty-one years 3,233 persons have been lynched in the United States. In the year 1889, when the vigilantes in Colorado and Montana were active, an extraordinary large number of lynchings occurred, mostly of white men, despatched for depredations on property. In 1892 the numerous lynchings that occurred were in the South, the victims being for the most part negroes, lynched for crimes against the person. Mr. J. Elbert Cutler, a post graduate student of Yale, who has been making the first scientific study of lynchings, finds that contrary to the received opinion, almost as many white men have been lynched as negroes. Only 61 women have thus been put to death without trial. In the South 1,091 negroes were lynched and 593 whites. The general law is that where there are many legal executions there are fewer lynchings. Since 1891 there has been a steady decrease in these violent outbreaks. The United States have spent half a million dollars for the indemnity of foreign subjects who have been lynched within their borders. The majority of negro lynchings have occurred in December, when many colored people abuse the opportunities of the Christmas season and run to riotous excess.—Bartow Courier-Informant.

When a negro is arrested for selling liquor in violation of the law, or for allowing it to be sold in his house, and a man who has no special interest in the negro goes on his board no thinking man can conscientiously believe other than that the bond signer is in sympathy with the violation.

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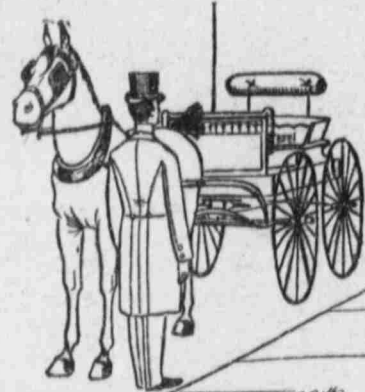
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Put the Eye on This.

The Twice-A-Week Gainesville Star is the kind of a paper you need, and its price is \$1.00 for one year, 50 cents for 6 months, 25 cents for 3 months. Issued Tuesday and Friday. D. E. Godwin, Editor & Prop.

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